



MALAYSIA

and the Coral Triangle Support Partnership

The Coral Triangle

The Coral Triangle holds the highest diversity of marine life in the world. Spanning 648 million hectares off the coasts of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste, the ecosystems in the region support the livelihoods of over 340 million people spread across the six countries.

Yet this abundant marine ecosystem is now at risk. Unsustainable fishing, rapid population growth, and the effects of climate change are not only damaging the environment, but also threatening the food security of those who depend on the valuable natural resources in the region.

Malaysia is surrounded by seas rich in marine resources, making it a valuable area within the Coral Triangle. Featured high on the list of the top 17 "megadiverse countries" of the world, Malaysia is known to host extensive networks of coral reefs, teeming with unique marine species.

The Coral Triangle Support Partnership

In 2009, the six nations of the Coral Triangle came together to form the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF).

As part of its support to the CTI-CFF, USAID funds the Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP) to ensure that the expertise, traditional knowledge, and history held by each country is well-utilized and shared across the region.

CTSP is unique five-year project which brings together the work of WWF, Conservation International, and The Nature Conservancy.

CTSP matches science with traditional knowledge to provide realistic, practical solutions for conservation and resource management – empowering local people to protect their ecosystems and their livelihoods.

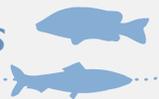


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Fisheries provide 60 percent of the Malaysian people's protein and are vital for food security in poor coastal communities



! COUNTRY FACTFILE

Around 80 percent of marine species in the Coral Triangle can be found in Malaysia's waters, but rapid coastal development and a fast-growing economy are taking their toll on its incredible resources.



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- 98% of people live within 100 km of the coastline.
- Fish stocks are depleted due to overfishing and destructive fishing.
- Water quality is declining due to the effects of unplanned coastal development.
- Trawling near coral reefs and sewage discharge continue to threaten marine habitats.

◀ Left : WWF-Malaysia staff conduct reef monitoring training with a resident within the proposed Tun Mustapha Park in the state of Sabah.

Supporting the government and communities to make conservation happen

Malaysia's plentiful natural resources are one of the reasons why the country continues to develop at an astonishing pace. However, the government is determined that resource exploitation must be done in a sustainable way. CTSP supports the government of Malaysia in their efforts to make conservation a top priority in their coastal areas.

Through WWF-Malaysia and other local partners, CTSP has helped put 5.5 million hectares of marine ecosystems under improved management. With our partners, CTSP now supports the government to establish the Tun Mustapha Park, which will be one of the largest Marine Protected Areas in Southeast Asia, and the largest in Malaysia, spanning one million hectares.

By supporting work that delivers the CTI-CFF Malaysian National Plan of Action, CTSP helps the government address the greatest threats and challenges to Malaysia's coastal resources. WWF-Malaysia works with the government to introduce more sustainable fishing methods on local and national levels. An essential part of this process involves fishers and local merchants, as their ideas will help develop policies that address a realistic and unified vision for Malaysia's marine resources.

"We thank CTSP for its support in helping the community of Maliangin to improve our livelihoods and participate in taking care of our environment."

Encik Abdul Aziz Hj Amir Bangsah
Chairman, Maliangin Island
Community Association



Adaptation to climate change

The people living on the small islands of Sabah are at the forefront of climate change impacts such as sea level rise and intense storms. With CTSP support, WWF-Malaysia and Sabah Parks have trained more than 20 wildlife wardens to manage coastal resources and help their communities adapt to climate change.



Reef System Rehabilitation

When the Sabah government stopped issuing permits for the export of humphead wrasse, many traders continued to keep wrasse in "growout cages". With the much prized but endangered wild wrasse fish stocks at such a low level, WWF-Malaysia initiated a buy-back and release program that released 850 fish back into the wild to breed in protected areas.



A shared vision

Not only are more fishermen using sustainable approaches in Sabah, they are also playing a key role in creating Tun Mustapha Park. At a recent CTSP-hosted workshop local fishers developed their vision for the future of the park. The recent release of an accidentally caught dugong within the Maliangin Community Marine Protected Area in 2011 (pictured above), shows the early benefits on the CTSP partnership with the fishing community.



SUCCESS STORY: WEAVING NEW LIVELIHOODS

At the Maliangin Handicraft Workshop, the people of Maliangin Island can make an alternative living that reduces their dependency on the sea's resources.

The launch of the Maliangin Handicraft Workshop in October 2010 marked a milestone in the Maliangin Island alternative livelihood program.

With CTSP support, members of the Maliangin Island Community Association and surrounding communities now produce handicrafts to sell, reducing the reliance on fishing as the primary source of household income in the area.

The workshop itself was built by a team of volunteers from Banggi Youth Club, Raleigh International, and the Maliangin Island

Community Association, with support from CTSP and WWF-Malaysia.

"This alternative livelihood program aims to reduce fishing pressure on coral reefs in Maliangin," says Irwanshah Mustapa from WWF-Malaysia. "Success and profit in the long-term from handicrafts sets a good example for other communities within the proposed Tun Mustapha Park to develop their own alternative livelihood programs that reduce direct dependency on marine resources."